



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

******MANUFACTURING MONTH OP-ED******

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Strong schools support Wisconsin's manufacturing sector

Schools in nine Wisconsin areas make Expansion Management's 5-Star Public Schools Metros list

By State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is collaborating with the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce to celebrate "May is for Manufacturing Month." Wisconsin's strong schools contribute to the state's manufacturing sector and recent rankings by *Expansion Management Magazine* put schools from seven Wisconsin areas among the top 25 metros for public schools in the nation.

Schools from those areas—Sheboygan (5), Eau Claire (7), Madison (8), Wausau (11), Appleton (16), Oshkosh-Neenah (20), and Fond du Lac (24)—were compared against schools in 362 metropolitan statistical areas according to a variety of categories, including college admission test scores, graduation rates, beginning and average teacher salaries, per pupil expenditures, and student-teacher ratio. Schools in these areas, plus Green Bay and La Crosse, were named to the magazine's 5-Star Public Schools Metros list.

**Expansion Management's
5-Star Public Schools
Metros List**

Appleton
Eau Claire
Fond du Lac
Green Bay
La Crosse
Madison
Oshkosh-Neenah
Sheboygan
Wausau

Why is this important? According to Expansion Management, companies deciding where to place a new manufacturing facility look at the quality of public schools as an indicator of the quality of their future workforce. Thus, it makes sense for communities that want to attract manufacturing jobs to invest in their public school systems.

(more)

Through our New Wisconsin Promise to provide a quality education for every child, we are dedicated in our efforts to educate students for the wide range of careers and job opportunities that will be part of their future. Our high-school-based Technology and Pre-Engineering programs specifically support our state's manufacturing sector. These programs focus on four areas that are essential for the automated manufacturing jobs of the future: educating for innovation and rigor; implementing real-world, contextual-based learning; expanding and aligning skill sets; and building capacity through community and industry involvement. Technology and Pre-Engineering programs are forging new pathways into the 21st century to better prepare students for a technologically advanced world. Our programs will help to ensure that the state has the high-performance workforce it needs to compete in a worldwide market.

Automated manufacturing offers high skill, high wage professions that fit Wisconsin's well known work-ethic, traditions, and vibrant manufacturing sector. Automated manufacturing offers a viable career and employment option for many of our students. Today and into the future, education and business must continue to unite around a shared vision of excellence that make dreams a reality for both our students and Wisconsin manufacturing.

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Elizabeth Burmaster is the elected state superintendent of public instruction.

NOTE: To download a high resolution photo of the state superintendent, visit the Department of Public Instruction "Media Contacts and Resources" webpage at < <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/eis/vm-media.html> >.